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Warhead Confirmation: A Follow-on to New START

Duncan MacArthur

March 27, 2014



What May Change?



New START

- Limits warheads on deployed delivery systems
- Warheads are declared and counted
- Radiation measurements
 - Verify absence Measurements confirm
 objects declared to be non-nuclear

Future treaties

- May limit deployed and non-deployed warheads
- Radiation measurements
 - Verify presence?
 - Confirm dismantlement?
 - More intrusive?
 - Weapon type
 - Individual weapons
 - Weapon status







- The host makes a declaration concerning an item
 - Treaty Limited Item (TLI)
 - Host is owner of TLI
 - Declaration may include disposition path
- The monitoring party confirms this declaration
 - Monitor may be state or other entity
- Host seeks to ensure that only agreed information is revealed







- Evaluate the item/process presented (Confirmation)
- Protect the host country's classified information (Certification)
- Allow monitors to draw independent conclusions (Authentication)

Dismantlement and Warhead Confirmation



- Dismantlement can be defined as separation of fissile material and high explosives.
 - Measurements "Absence", "Everything present", or something else
 - Confirmation of an "item," or a declared TLI, or the specified TLI?
- No similar definition for "nuclear weapon"
 - Measurements Characteristics, similarity, and/or history
 - Confirmation How good, where, when?







- Trust: Does the host have any reason to be deceptive?
- Provenance: Has the item undergone movements or come from a location consistent with being a warhead?
- Template comparison: Is the item consistent with other items known or believed to be warheads?
- Attribute measurement: Are specified (and agreed) item properties consistent with it being a warhead?



Certification



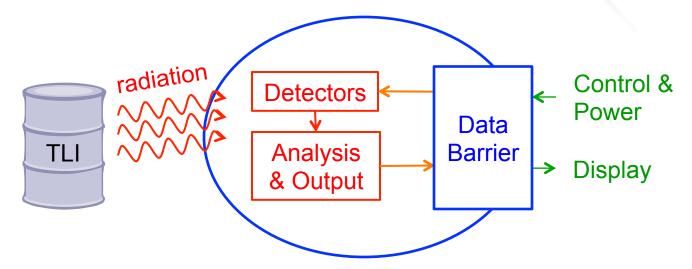
When monitors visit a Host storage facility...

- Host seeks to prevent the unauthorized release of information during a measurement while letting agreed results through.
- Should be robust against possible intelligence collection attempts.
- Information Barrier hardware, software and procedures



Information Barriers (IBs)





Potentially sensitive
Sensitive data within IB
Information barrier
Non-sensitive display



The Fissile Material Transparency Technology Demonstration (FMTTD)



- LANL/LLNL collaboration
- Russian/USG audience
- Measurements on U.S. weapon component



Only measurement of its kind ever performed.



More Recent Implementations





LANL: NG-AMS (Next Generation Attribute Measurement System)

VNIIEF-LANL-LLNL: AVNG (Attribute Verification Neutron Gamma)





The Monitor's View





Authentication



 Everything interesting (the object, the measurement system, and the data) has been hidden.

Why should the monitors believe the red/green

lights?



VNIIEF-LANL-LLNL: AVNG



Authentication Options



U.S./RF/IAEA: Trilateral Initiative



Who gets it last?

- Confidence building
- Layered approach
- Integrated into measurement system



VNIIEF/LANL/LLNL: AVNG

LANL: Modular Neutron Detector



Authentication in Phases



Design

- Design for authentication
- Joint design
- Modular design
- Open

Fabrication

- "Joint"
- Agreed methods

Testing

- "module" testers
- Functional testing

Random selection

- Any phase
- Complex and expensive
- Use when necessary
- Allows monitoring party "private" inspection



VNIIEF-LANL-LLNL: AVNG

Future Treaties



- Confirmation of presence as opposed to confirmation of absence
- Three challenges
 - Confirmation
 - Certification
 - Authentication
- Four confirmation approaches
 - Trust
 - Provenance
 - Template comparison
 - Attribute measurement

